Video piracy in the country

2709. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a ban on release of the video of a film for three months after release;

(b) whether it is also a fact that video piracy within and outside the country is on the increase;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to strengthen the law in this respect and if so, the details thereof and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir. The Government has not imposed any ban.

(b) to (d) Government have been receiving complaints about video piracy, from time to time. Since the release of feature|video films is controlled by the Film Industry, which is in the private sector, and advanced duplication technology is available with them, it has become easy to transfer and duplicate these films from the cine to the video format. Proposals for amendment of the Copyright Act, 1957, are already before the Parliament. An organisation called Indian Federation Against Copyright Theft (INFACT) was established in December, 1988. This organisation was promoted by the National Flm Development Corporation (NFDC) with participation from the Film Federation of India (FFI), and other trade bodies INFACT carries out raids to check the menace of piracy, with the help of Police, from time to time, all over India.

Bringing the DD coverage in various States to the National average

2710. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a number of States, DD penetration is very much less than the national average;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to bring the DD coverage in such States at the national average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The requisite details are given in the Statement (*See* below). With a view to augment and strengthen the overall coverage, 356 TV transmitters of varying powers, are under implementation|envisaged to be get up in the States and Union Territories.